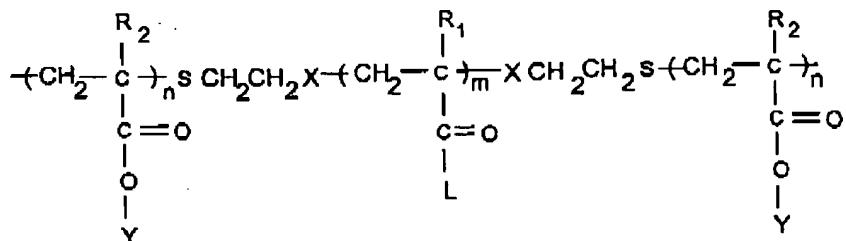


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### Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to 2,00,000 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



### Formula (1)

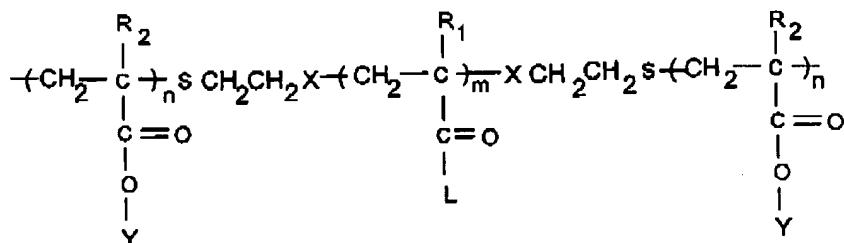
whereir.,

$R_1$  is H,  $CH_3$ ,  $C_2H_5$ , or  $C_6H_5$ ;  $R_2$  is H,  $CH_3$ ,  $C_2H_5$ , or  $C_6H_5$ ; here,  $R_2$  at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH,  $NH_2$ ,  $OCH_3$ , or  $NHCH(CH_3)_2$ ; Y is N-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrolose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,

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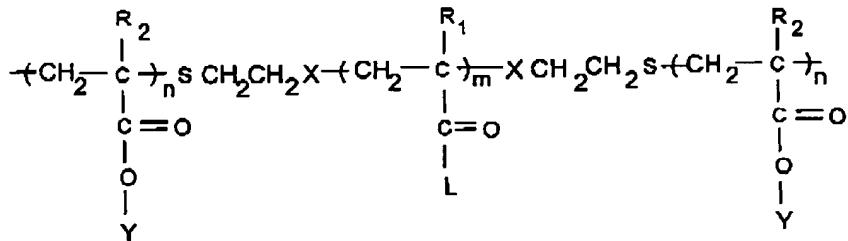
Formula (1)

wherein,

$\text{R}_1$  is H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ , or  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ;  $\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ , or  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ , here,  $\text{R}_2$  at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH,  $\text{NH}_2\text{OCH}_3$ , or  $\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ; Y is N-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Accordingly, the present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to 2,00,000 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



Formula (1)

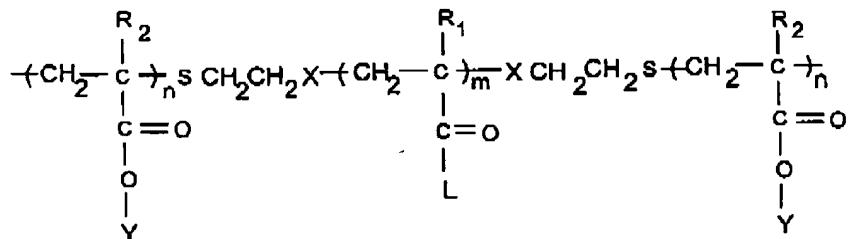
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wherein.

$R_1$  is H,  $CH_3$ ,  $C_2H_5$ , or  $C_6H_5$ ;  $R_2$  is H,  $CH_3$ ,  $C_2H_5$ , or  $C_6H_5$  here,  $R_2$  at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH,  $NH_2OCH_3$ , or  $NHCH(CH_3)_2$ ; Y is N-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrolose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In an embodiment of the present invention, wherein tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to 2,00,000 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



### Formula (1)

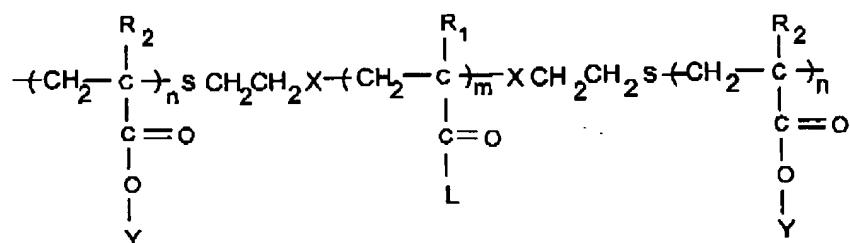
wherein,

$R_1$  is H, CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>;  $R_2$  is H, CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, or C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>; here,  $R_2$  at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, or NHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>; Y is N-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrocose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—This invention relates to tri-block copolymers containing *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine (NAG) of molecular weight ranging from 2,000 Daltons to 2,00,000 200,000 Daltons having formula (1)



**Formula (1)**

wherein,

R<sub>1</sub> is H, CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> is H, CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, here, R<sub>2</sub> at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different, X is an ester or amide linkage, m is from 3 to 500, n is from 2 to 50, L is OH, NH<sub>2</sub> and NHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Y may be *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrolose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose and amylose.—